

**SPECIAL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 – 7 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: First Selectman Carmen Vance; Selectman William O'Brien; Selectman Robert Hellstrom, Robert Bogue and Deputy Selectman Steven Everett

Also Present: Town Administrator Mark Walter; Finance Director Beverly Ciurylo; Columbia Fire Department President John Schroder, Fire Chief Peter Starkel and Director of Public Works George Murphy.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman C. Vance called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

2.1 **CVFD**

CVFD President John Schroder and Chief Peter Starkel were present to discuss their proposed operating and capital budgets for FY 2017-2018. They have proposed an operating budget totaling \$193,550 which represents an increase of 2.3% over last year and a capital budget totaling \$207,500. They responded to inquiries from BOS members about individual items. Peter explained that the proposed capital improvement plan marks the beginning of an eight year plan to replace Engine 205 and a four year plan to refurbish Rescue 105. Peter expressed that there is flexibility in the long range plan for vehicles but they definitely need the marine rescue boat in 2017. Board members expressed their appreciation for all the volunteers do for the community.

2.2 **PUBLIC WORKS**

George Murphy, Director of Public Works, was present to discuss the capitol requests he had submitted for FY 2017-2018. Board members discussed with George the timeframe and process for road resurfacing, bridge improvements, equipment needs and building improvements. There was general consensus of the Board that road resurfacing should remain on schedule, that the old dump truck needs to be replaced next year and that the salt shed should be addressed as soon as possible. Board members recognized what a good job George and his crew do in maintaining Columbia buildings and roads.

2.3 **Discussion**

The Board discussed how best to proceed in light of certain items in the Governor's proposed budget, particularly the item that says towns should pay a part of the teacher's retirement.

Bev explained that Columbia's share of the teacher's retirement would be \$613,199 but with adjustments in other state revenues the overall impact on the 2017-18 budget would be a net decrease of \$244,502.

Mark, Bev and Carmen will take information from the discussion and prepare a couple of scenarios for next Tuesday's (February 21) meeting.

3. **Adjournment**

Bill O'Brien moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Carmen Vance First Selectman